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LOW DISPERSION FILTERS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This patent application is a continuation in part patent application of United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/876,647, filed on June 7, 2001, and entitled APPARATUS ^{now U.S. Patent number 6,687,054} AND METHOD FOR LOW DISPERSION IN COMMUNICATIONS (Docket 12569-13), the entire contents of which are hereby expressly incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates generally to optical communications devices and systems and relates more particularly to a low dispersion filter or interleaver for use in wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) and dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) optical communication systems and the like.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Optical communication systems which utilize wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) and dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) technologies are well known. According to both wavelength-division multiplexing and dense wavelength-division multiplexing, a plurality of different wavelengths of light, typically infrared light, are transmitted via a single medium such as an optical fiber. Each wavelength corresponds to a separate channel and carries information generally independently with respect to the other channels. The plurality of wavelengths (and consequently the corresponding plurality of channels) are transmitted